

New funding creates County Investment Fund

As a part of the conditions of sale of the former Boeing property that was owned by the State of Oregon, Morrow County has received \$500,000 to be used for local economic development efforts. The Morrow County Court, in cooperation with the state legislature, has developed the Morrow County Investment Fund to address the need for flexible project financing in the county. These funds will be utilized in conjunction with traditional financing sources to encourage the expansion of existing businesses and to promote Morrow County as a good place for outside firms to locate.

An advisory committee has been established to prescreen applications and make recommendations to the Court for potential financing. This committee is comprised of members of the local financial institutions, community representatives and the county's economic development director. The policies and procedures governing the fund require that all potential borrowers first engage a traditional financial institution in their project and that referrals to the fund will come from those institutions. The intent of the fund is to provide that portion of the funding for viable projects that is outside the scope of customary loan products.

Sykes named to SBDC council

David Sykes of Heppner was recently named to the Blue Mountain Community College Small Business Development Center Advisory Council.

The SBDC provides services for the people of Baker, Morrow and Umatilla counties helping them "create, grow and run successful businesses."



David Sykes

Sykes, publisher of the Heppner Gazette-Times newspaper and real estate agent for Heritage Land Company, is also a member of the board of directors of both the Heppner Chamber of Commerce and the Willow Creek Valley Economic Development Group.

Arlington to host Aluminum Man Triathlon

The 2nd Annual Aluminum Man Triathlon will be held Aug. 9, in Arlington. The three events will be golf, shooting clay birds and horseshoes.

This competition will have the distinction of holding the first tournament on China Creek Golf Course, the brand new course in Arlington.

Two person teams compete for a wide variety of prizes including Seahawk football tickets, a rafting trip down the Deschutes River and many more. A "Hole in One" on the fourth hole, 167 yards, wins \$10,000 cash.

Winners in each event will be awarded prizes.

Entry is \$100 per team. Entry fee includes shotgun shells for clay birds

Local banks and savings and loans will be required to provide the committee with an analysis of the project being considered and reasons why the fund is needed for a particular project's success.

Recognizing the differences in the economies of north and south Morrow County, the Court has determined that the program will try to address that diversity by providing different types of assistance in each region. Due to the Port of Morrow's strong business recruitment efforts in north county, it has been determined that the greatest need there is the expansion of the retail, commercial and professional services sector. By making the fund available for these types of businesses, Boardman and Irrigon will be able to bring more services to their communities and enhance the quality of life for present and future residents. With the loss of the Kinzua Mill, the communities in the Willow Creek Valley, Ione, Lexington and Heppner, are suffering from a lack of primary jobs. To add them in their efforts to replace those jobs losses, the fund will focus on industrial firms in that area of the county.

Anyone wishing to apply for funding through this program should first contact their own financial institution who will provide the necessary referral to the Advisory Committee.

WCCC Ladies' Playday results

Twenty-three ladies gathered July 29, under warm and sunny skies for Willow Creek Country Club's weekly Ladies' Playday. Pat Edmundson took low gross of the field. Joyce Dinkins and Bernice Lott tied for low net of the field. Least putts of the field went to Pat Anderson.

In flight A, Carol Mitchell received low gross; Eva Kilkenny received low net; and Betty Christman received least putts. Virginia Grant had a KP, second shot/hole #5.

In flight B, Karen Bishop received low gross; Lynnea Sargent and Suzanne Jepsen tied for low net; and Luvilla Sonstegard received least putts and a KP, second shot/hole #5.

In flight C, Della Heideman received low gross; Liz Orwick received low net and a KP, second shot/hole #5; and Betty Carlson received least putts.

Lorrene Montgomery received a chip in on hole #7 and Pat Anderson had a chip in on hole #5.

and a BBQ dinner for each participant. Additional meals and drinks are available for a fee.

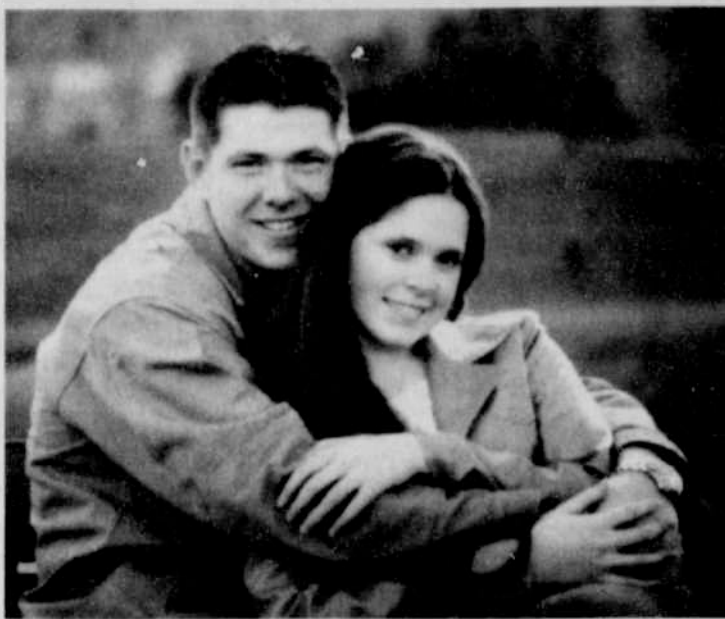
The event is only open to the first 40 two-person teams.

The triathlon is a benefit for unfounded Arlington Sports programs.

To sign up or for more information, call Ric Rosenbalm at 454-2060 or 454-2219.

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Engagement Bielicki-Bloodsworth



Kevin Bloodsworth and Brenda Bielicki
Brenda Krystyne Bielicki, Richland, WA and Kevin Carl Bloodsworth, Hermiston wish to announce their engagement.

The bride-elect is the daughter of Bernie and Lynda Bielicki, of Richland, WA. She is a 2003 graduate of Richland High School. She will be attending Central Washington University this fall.

The groom-elect is the son of James and Carlita Bloodsworth, of Hermiston and the grandson of Barbara Bloodsworth, of Heppner. He is a 2001 graduate of Colorado State Academy, Hermiston. He has attended Mt. Hood Community College, majoring in general studies, and will be attending Perry Technical Institute this fall.

All friends and family are invited to the Aug. 23, 2003, wedding. The wedding will be held in Richland, WA, at the Nazarene Church, 2500 Jericho Road, at 1 p.m.

Marriage Announcement Davis-Schultz



Elizabeth and Robert Schultz, holding Elizabeth's daughter, Evelyn.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert R. Schultz, of Heppner, wish to announce the marriage of their son A-1C Robert Calvin Schultz, Heppner, to A-1C Elizabeth Anne Davis, of London, N.H., daughter of Alvin Richard Davis, III, of London, N.H.

The couple was married Mar. 10, 2003, at Chatancho, Okinawa, Japan.

Davis graduated from Concord Christian High in Concord, N.H., in 2000. She currently serves in the U.S. Air Force as a Biological and Chemical Warfare instructor.

Schultz is a 1997 graduate of Heppner High School. He is currently serving in the U.S. Air Force in Civil Engineering. The couple resides at Kadena Air Force Base, Okinawa, Japan.

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Walden fights to keep Walla Walla VA hospital open

In response to a recent announcement that the Department of Veteran Affairs is considering the closure of the Jonathan M. Wainwright Medical Center (VAMC) in Walla Walla, Washington, U.S. Congressman Greg Walden (R-OR) has written to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs expressing concern that such a decision would seriously diminish access to health care among the region's veterans. The Walla Walla facility serves substantial numbers of veterans living in northeast Oregon.

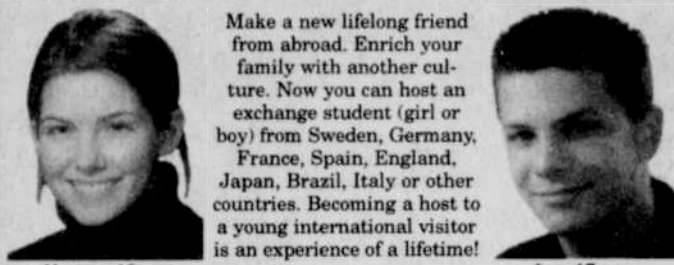
In a letter to Secretary Anthony Principi, Walden noted the high number of Oregon veterans who face lengthy waiting periods to receive VA care, as well as the considerable travel distances that separate many veterans in rural communities from access to health care. The letter also highlights the fact that the recent Market Planning Initiatives submitted by Veterans Integrated Service Network 20 (VISN 20), which serves Oregon, Alaska, Idaho and Washington, has identified significant gaps in outpatient primary, specialty, and mental health care and inpatient psychiatry at the Walla Walla facility.

"The Walla Walla Veterans Medical Center is absolutely critical to ensuring access to health care among veterans in northeast Oregon, and I have no intention of allowing their care to be diminished," said Walden. "Veterans in many parts of Oregon already face long drives and long waiting periods to receive the care they're entitled to, and this proposal would only compound the hardships these men and women are forced to endure. Every indication suggests that we should be investing greater resources in the Walla Walla facility, not shutting it down. I'll continue to work closely with both my Oregon and Washington colleagues in Congress to ensure that veterans in the Northwest receive the care they've been promised."

Marriage Licenses

July 31: Thomas Howard Grimes, 26, Boardman and Lori Amanda Conzelmann, 29, Boardman.

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